

1 **Opposing functions of the plant *TOPLESS* gene family during *SNC1*-mediated autoimmunity**

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3 Christopher M. Garner^{a,b,c,1}, Benjamin J. Spears^{a,c}, Jianbin Su^{a,c}, Leland Cseke^{a,c}, Samantha N. Smith^{a,c},

4 Conner J. Rogan^{b,c,2}, and Walter Gassmann^{a,c,§}

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6 ^aDivision of Plant Sciences, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65211, USA

7 ^bDivision of Biological Sciences, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65211, USA

8 ^cChristopher S. Bond Life Sciences Center and Interdisciplinary Plant Group, University of Missouri,

9 Columbia, MO 65211, USA

10

11 ¹Current Address: Thermo Fisher Scientific, Carlsbad, CA

12 ²Current Address: Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR

13

14 [§]Corresponding author: gassmannw@missouri.edu

15

16 Author contributions

17 Conceptualization: CMG, WG; formal analysis: CMG, BJS; funding acquisition: CMG, WG;

18 investigation: CMG, BJS, JS, SNS, CJR; methodology: CMG, BJS, JS; project administration: CMG,

19 WG; visualization: CMG, LC; writing - original: CMG; writing - review & editing: CMG, LC, WG

20

21 Short title: *TOPLESS-RELATED2* suppresses *SNC1*-mediated autoimmunity

22 **Abstract**

23 Regulation of the plant immune system is important for controlling the specificity and amplitude of
24 responses to pathogens and in preventing growth-inhibiting autoimmunity that leads to reductions in
25 plant fitness. In previous work, we reported that *SRFR1*, a negative regulator of effector-triggered
26 immunity, interacts with *SNC1* and *EDS1*. When *SRFR1* is non-functional in the Arabidopsis accession
27 Col-0, *SNC1* levels increase, causing a cascade of events that lead to autoimmunity phenotypes.
28 Previous work showed that some members of the transcriptional co-repressor family *TOPLESS* interact
29 with *SNC1* to repress negative regulators of immunity. Therefore, to explore potential connections
30 between *SRFR1* and *TOPLESS* family members, we took a genetic approach that examined the effect of
31 each *TOPLESS* member in the *srfr1* mutant background. The data indicated that an additive genetic
32 interaction exists between *SRFR1* and two members of the *TOPLESS* family, *TPR2* and *TPR3*, as
33 demonstrated by increased stunting and elevated *PR2* expression in *srfr1 tpr2* and *srfr1 tpr2 tpr3*
34 mutants. Furthermore, the *tpr2* mutation intensifies autoimmunity in the auto-active *snc1-1* mutant,
35 indicating a novel role of these *TOPLESS* family members in negatively regulating *SNC1*-dependent
36 phenotypes. This negative regulation can also be reversed by overexpressing *TPR2* in the *srfr1 tpr2*
37 background. Thus, this work uncovers diverse functions of individual members of the *TOPLESS* family
38 in Arabidopsis and provides evidence for the additive effect of transcriptional and post-transcriptional
39 regulation of *SNC1*.

40

41 **Author Summary**

42 The immune system is a double-edged sword that affords organisms with protection against infectious
43 diseases but can also lead to negative effects if not properly controlled. Plants only possess an innate
44 antimicrobial immune system that relies on rapid upregulation of defenses once immune receptors detect
45 the presence of microbes. Plant immune receptors known as resistance proteins play a key role in rapidly
46 triggering defenses if pathogens breach other defenses. A common model of unregulated immunity in
47 the reference Arabidopsis variety Columbia-0 involves a resistance gene called *SNC1*. When the SNC1
48 protein accumulates to unnaturally high levels or possesses auto-activating mutations, the visible
49 manifestations of immune overactivity include stunted growth and low biomass and seedset.
50 Consequently, expression of this gene and accumulation of the encoded protein are tightly regulated on
51 multiple levels. Despite careful study the mechanisms of *SNC1* gene regulation are not fully understood.
52 Here we present data on members of the well-known TOPLESS family of transcriptional repressors.
53 While previously characterized members were shown to function in indirect activation of defenses,
54 TPR2 and TPR3 are shown here to function in preventing high defense activity. This study therefore
55 contributes to the understanding of complex regulatory processes in plant immunity.

56

57 **Introduction**

58 Plants defend against infection by having a multilayered immune system, one branch of which
59 recognizes molecular signatures of microbes through pattern recognition receptors at the cell surface. At
60 the same time, plants monitor potential intracellular targets of pathogen attack [1,2]. At the heart of this
61 intracellular plant surveillance system are the resistance genes of the nucleotide binding site – leucine-
62 rich repeat (NLR) class [3]. Resistance proteins recognize, directly or indirectly, the actions of
63 pathogen-secreted effector proteins which seek to interfere with plant immune responses or normal plant
64 physiology. Upon sensing the activity of effectors, resistance proteins elicit a rapid and robust defense
65 response, called effector-triggered immunity (ETI). In the case of the biotrophic defense response, this
66 includes accelerated production of high levels of the plant hormone salicylic acid (SA) and the induction
67 of *PATHOGENESIS RELATED (PR)* genes [1].

68 Because of cross-talk between plant hormone pathways, activation of the defense response is
69 accompanied by repression of pathways that promote growth [4–7]. Therefore, induction of the plant
70 immune system must be kept under tight control to avoid fitness penalties incurred during the absence of
71 pathogen infection [8], as illustrated by autoimmune mutants of *Arabidopsis* that display the negative
72 effects of an unregulated immune response. More than thirty different mutants have been identified that
73 cause an autoimmune response exhibited by dwarfism, high levels of salicylic acid, constitutive defense
74 gene expression, and subsequent increased resistance to pathogens [9]. Genetic analysis of these mutants
75 has provided a wealth of information regarding the identity of positive and negative regulators of the
76 immune response, and they illustrate the many levels of regulation that take place within the plant
77 immune system.

78 SUPPRESSOR of *rps4*-RLD1 (SRFR1) is a negative regulator of ETI mediated by several NLR
79 proteins with a Toll/interleukin-1 receptor domain at their N-termini (TNLs), including RPS4/RRS1 and

80 SNC1 [10–12]. It was discovered in a genetic screen for mutants that were resistant to *Pseudomonas*
81 *syringae* pv. *tomato* strain DC3000 expressing the bacterial effector AvrRps4 in the Arabidopsis
82 accession RLD, which is normally susceptible because of natural inactivating polymorphisms in the
83 *RPS4* resistance gene [10]. Mutants of *srfr1* in the Col-0 background constitutively activate SNC1
84 expression, causing an autoimmune phenotype characterized by high levels of salicylic acid, constitutive
85 expression of PR genes, and severe stunting [12,13]. This autoimmune phenotype is absent in the RLD
86 background due to an absence of a full-length *SNC1* allele [12]. SRFR1 interacts with the TNLs RPS4,
87 RPS6, and SNC1 as well as the central ETI regulator EDS1 in a complex disrupted by AvrRps4 [2,14].
88 Furthermore, *srfr1 eds1* mutants lose increased resistance phenotypes [14]. These results place SRFR1
89 as a key regulator of effector-triggered immunity conferred by the TNL class of resistance genes.

90 In addition to interactions within an ETI protein complex, homology to transcriptional regulators
91 and interaction with transcription factors suggest SRFR1 could also be part of a transcriptional repressor
92 complex [11]. SRFR1 interacts with members of the TEOSINTE BRANCHED1-CYCLOIDEA-
93 PROLIFERATING CELL FACTOR (TCP) transcription factor family in the nucleus. Specifically,
94 SRFR1 interacts strongly with TCP8, TCP14, and TCP15, and a triple *tcp8 tcp14 tcp15* mutant is
95 compromised in effector-triggered immunity [15]. This interaction between SRFR1 and positive ETI
96 regulators suggests a model wherein SRFR1 is restricting TCP access to promoters of defense-related
97 genes, or recruiting other proteins that function as repressors of transcription at these promoters.

98 The five member Arabidopsis *TOPLESS* gene family (*TPL*, *TOPLESS RELATED1*, *TPR2*, *TPR3*,
99 and *TPR4*) encodes members of the larger GRO/TUP1 family of corepressors that are proposed to
100 interact with DNA-binding proteins in the promoter regions of regulated genes to repress transcription
101 [16]. Analysis of TPL/TPR family interactions with transcription factors indicates that they have been
102 coopted multiple times to regulate gene expression in diverse processes, including control of flowering

103 time, hormone signaling, and stress responses [17]. Structural studies also provide evidence that TPL
104 tetramerizes as part of its interactions with protein partners, suggesting the possibility of heterotetramers
105 within the TOPLESS family [18].

106 Furthermore, TPR1 was shown to interact with SNC1, and together the complex, with an as yet
107 unknown DNA-binding transcription factor, represses transcription of genes that function as negative
108 regulators of defense responses such as *DEFENSE NO DEATH 1 (DND1)* and *DND2*, which encode
109 cyclic nucleotide-gated ion channels [19,20]. Therefore, similar to the interactions of SRF1 with the
110 TNL-mediated ETI machinery and transcription factors, TOPLESS family members display multiple
111 mechanisms in their functions as co-repressors.

112 Whether SRF1 is acting as part of a complex with the ETI machinery or functions as a
113 transcriptional co-repressor, which molecular pathways regulate the autoimmunity phenotype of *srfr1*
114 mutants remains a pressing question. Both models presented us with the possibility that *SRFR1* may also
115 be interacting, at least genetically, with members of the TOPLESS family. Thus, we hypothesized that
116 loss-of-function mutations in the *TOPLESS* gene family in the *srfr1-4* background would display similar
117 phenotypes to the *tpl/tpr1* mutants in the *snc1-1* auto-active mutant background, reducing the *SNC1*-
118 mediated autoimmune response. Here, we report the unexpected result that mutations in *TPR2* and *TPR3*
119 have the opposite effect from those in *TPR1*, increasing the *SNC1* autoimmune response in the *srfr1-4*
120 mutant background. This presents a novel function for TPR2 and TPR3 in either repressing positive
121 regulators of the immune response or interfering with the SNC1-TPR1-mediated repression of negative
122 regulators.

123

124 **Results**

125

126 **Mutations in *TPR2* exacerbate the *srfr1-4* autoimmune phenotype**

127 To investigate possible genetic interactions between *SRFR1* and members of the *TOPLESS* family, *srfr1-*
128 *4* was crossed with T-DNA mutants in *TPL*, *TPR1*, *TPR2*, *TPR3*, and *TPR4*. Homozygous *srfr1-4 tpl/tpr*
129 double mutants were compared to *srfr1-4* to determine if stunting, a measure of constitutively activated
130 defenses, was affected. To quantify these differences in stunting we also measured shoot weights from
131 each genotype after 4 weeks of growth. The results showed that *srfr1-4 tpl-8* and *srfr1-4 tpr2-2* were
132 significantly different from *srfr1-4* in terms of size and overall shoot mass, in opposite directions (Fig 1).
133 *PR2* is well established as an overall marker of immune system activation, and we found that the degree
134 of stunting in this panel of auto-immune mutants correlated with their level of *PR2* expression (S1 Fig).
135 Stunting in *srfr1-4* is due to the activation of the TNL gene *SNCI* [13,19]. Given that it was shown that
136 mutation of *tpl* lessens the effect of stunting in autoactive *snc1-1* mutants [19], and the dependency of
137 stunting in *srfr1-4* on activation of *SNCI*, we concluded that the effect we were seeing in *srfr1-4 tpl-8*
138 mutants was a recapitulation of previous findings and chose not to investigate this mutant any further. We
139 did not see a similar phenotype in *srfr1-4 tpr1-2*, most likely because the *tpr1-2* allele used here is not a
140 true knockout.

141 In contrast, the increased stunting of *srfr1-4 tpr2-2* represents a novel genetic interaction, and as
142 such we switched our focus to concentrate on the *SRFR1-TPR2* interaction. To verify that the increased
143 autoimmunity phenotype was indeed caused by the insertion at the *TPR2* locus and not some other tightly
144 linked mutation, we obtained a second allele of *TPR2*, *tpr2-1*, and crossed this allele to *srfr1-4*. As with
145 *srfr1-4 tpr2-2*, we saw increased stunting in the *srfr1-4 tpr2-1* double mutant relative to *srfr1-4* (Fig 2A).
146 To quantify these differences in stunting we measured shoot weights from each genotype after 4 weeks of
147 growth. The results showed that *srfr1-4 tpr2-1* and *srfr1-4 tpr2-2* were significantly different from *srfr1-*

148 4 in terms of overall shoot mass (Fig 2B), but that neither *TPR2* single mutant was significantly different
149 from Col-0.

150

151 ***TPR2* and *TPR3* are partially redundant in repressing autoimmunity in *srfr1-4***

152 Previous research has demonstrated functional redundancy amongst TOPLESS family members, and that
153 higher order *tpl/tpr* knockouts produce stronger phenotypes than single *tpl/tpr* mutants [21–23]. Based on
154 the close evolutionary relatedness of *TPR2* and *TPR3* (S2 Fig) and previous reports that indicated *TPL*,
155 *TPR1*, and *TPR4* are repressors of negative regulators of immunity [19], we chose to investigate if
156 mutations in *TPR3* would impact the *srfr1-4 tpr2-2* phenotype. To obtain a *srfr1-4 tpr2-2 tpr3-1* triple
157 mutant, *srfr1-4 tpr2-2* was crossed with *srfr1-4 tpr3-1*. Analysis of shoot mass showed that the *srfr1-4*
158 *tpr2-2 tpr3-1* triple mutant is significantly smaller than both *srfr1-4* and *srfr1-4 tpr2-2* (Fig3A and Fig3B).

159 As TOPLESS family members have been shown to be repressors of transcription we decided to
160 examine the mRNA levels of *SNCI* in the *srfr1-4 tpr2-2* and *srfr1-4 tpr2-2 tpr3-1* mutants to see if they
161 were affected relative to *srfr1-4*. We also examined *PR2* expression as a marker for overall immune
162 activation and used qPCR rather than protein blotting to quantify subtle differences in mRNA levels for
163 the remainder of this study. As illustrated in Fig 3C and 3D, *PR2* and *SNCI* mRNA levels were
164 significantly increased in *srfr1-4 tpr2-2* and *srfr1-4 tpr2-2 tpr3-1* relative to *srfr1-4*; however, no
165 significant change in *PR2* or *SNCI* expression was observed in the *tpr2-2* or *tpr3-1* single mutants.

166 Given the partial redundancy observed between *TPR2* and *TPR3* in the *srfr1-4* background and the
167 lack of any observable phenotype in the single mutants, we crossed *tpr2-2* to *tpr3-1* to create a *tpr2-2*
168 *tpr3-1* double mutant. No stunting or other morphological phenotypes were observed in *tpr2-2 tpr3-1* (Fig
169 4A). We also found no significant difference between Col-0 and *tpr2-2 tpr3-1* with regards to *PR2*

170 expression; however, we did see a small but significant increase in *SNCI* expression in *tpr2-2 tpr3-1* when
171 compared to Col-0 (Fig 4C and 4D).

172

173 **Overexpression of *TPR2* in the *srfr1-4* background represses autoimmunity**

174 We next asked if overexpressing *TPR2* would have the opposite effect and suppress autoimmunity in the
175 *srfr1-4 tpr2-2* background. To test this hypothesis we cloned the *TPR2* coding sequence as a translational
176 fusion with a C-terminal 10xMyc tag behind the constitutively active cauliflower mosaic virus 35S
177 promoter. Using the 35S:*TPR2-myc* construct, several stable lines were created in the *srfr1-4 tpr2-2*
178 genetic background. Two independent homozygous *TPR2-myc srfr1-4 tpr2-2* lines in the T3 generation,
179 were planted alongside Col-0, *srfr1-4*, and *srfr1-4 tpr2-2* to compare the degree of stunting. At four weeks
180 after planting, the *TPR2-myc srfr1-4 tpr2-2* plants were less stunted than both *srfr1-4 tpr2-2* and *srfr1-4*
181 (Fig 5A).

182 Quantification of *SNCI* showed that not only was transcript level reduced below *srfr1-4 tpr2-2*
183 levels, but was also less than *SNCI* levels in *srfr1-4* (Fig 5B), correlating with plant size (Fig 5A). The
184 TNL gene *RPP4* is located within the *SNCI* locus and has been shown to be co-regulated with *SNCI* both
185 at the level of transcription and after transcription by RNA silencing [24]. We have also previously shown
186 that *RPP4* is upregulated in *srfr1-4* [12]. To determine if *TPR2* also affects *RPP4* expression in the *srfr1-4*
187 background, we quantified *RPP4* mRNA in *srfr1-4 tpr2-2* and in *TPR2-myc srfr1-4 tpr2-2*. We saw a
188 slight non-significant increase in *RPP4* expression in *srfr1-4 tpr2-2* relative to *srfr1-4*, while *RPP4* mRNA
189 was reduced in *TPR2-myc srfr1-4 tpr2-2* below levels in *srfr1-4* (Fig 5C).

190

191 **Increased autoimmunity in *srfr1-4 tpr2-2* is partially dependent upon *SNCI***

192 Previous work has shown that stunting in *srfr1-4* is dependent on *SNCI*, and that a *srfr1-4 snc1-11*
193 double mutant is morphologically normal but still expresses higher than normal levels of several
194 defense-related genes [12]. To see if the enhanced autoimmunity that results from mutating *TPR2* in the
195 *srfr1-4* background is dependent on *SNCI*, we created a quadruple mutant by crossing the *SNCI*
196 knockout allele, *snc1-11*, to *srfr1-4 tpr2-2 tpr3-1*. As was previously observed for *srfr1-4 snc1-11*, we
197 saw no stunting or morphological abnormalities in the *srfr1-4 snc1-11 tpr2-2 tpr3-1* quadruple mutant
198 (Fig 6A). *SRFR1* regulation of *RPP4* is *SNCI* independent as *RPP4* is upregulated equally in both *srfr1-*
199 *4* and *srfr1-4 snc1-11* relative to wild type levels in Col-0 [12]. Interestingly, *RPP4* expression was
200 significantly decreased both in *srfr1-4 snc1-11 tpr2-2 tpr3-1* compared to *srfr1-4 snc1-11* and in *snc1-11*
201 *tpr2-2 tpr3-1* compared to *snc1-11* (Fig 6B), whereas *RPP4* mRNA levels in the *srfr1-4 tpr2-2* mutant
202 were slightly higher than in *srfr1-4* (Fig 5C), indicating that these higher *RPP4* mRNA levels are at least
203 partially dependent upon *SNCI*. Consistent with our previous study, we saw an increase in *PR2* levels in
204 the *srfr1-4 snc1-11* double mutant compared to Col-0 and *snc1-11*. *PR2* levels in *srfr1-4 snc1-11 tpr2-2*
205 *tpr3-1* were comparable to those in *srfr1-4 snc1-11* (Fig 5C).

206 To further investigate the relationship between *TPR2* and *SNCI* activity, we crossed *tpr2-2* to
207 *snc1-1*, an auto-active allele of *SNCI* that induces a constitutive defense response and associated
208 stunting [25]. The F2 from this cross produced approximately 1/16th plants which genotyped as
209 homozygous *snc1-1 tpr2-2* that were extremely stunted and produced very little seed. When compared
210 to *snc1-1*, *snc1-1 tpr2-2* was significantly more stunted, and had significantly higher levels of *SNCI* and
211 *PR2* mRNA (Fig 7). These results are consistent with the conclusion that the autoimmune phenotypes
212 modulated by mutations in *SRFR1* and *TPR2* are tightly associated with *SNCI*.

213

214 ***SRFR1* acts upstream of *SNCI* transcription**

215 Transcription of *SNC1* is subject to feedback regulation through the production of salicylic acid. Upon
216 activation of SNC1, SA accumulates in the plant and increased levels of SA cause even more
217 transcription of *SNC1* [26]. Our data show that *tpr2-2* increases *SNC1* mRNA levels in the *srfr1-4* and
218 *snc1-1* backgrounds, but because of the complex feedback regulation of *SNC1* transcription it is unclear
219 whether *SRFR1* and *TPR2* are directly affecting transcription at the *SNC1* locus, or if they are repressing
220 some component downstream of SNC1 activation. Signaling for all Arabidopsis TNL class resistance
221 proteins identified to date is dependent upon EDS1 [27], and mutating *EDS1* blocks the feedback
222 regulation of SNC1, thereby making it possible to disambiguate events upstream of *SNC1* transcription
223 from events downstream of SNC1 activation [28]. The *eds1-2* allele is a knockout for *EDS1* introgressed
224 into Col-0 [29]. Previous work has shown that a *srfr1-4 eds1-2* double mutant shows no signs of
225 enhanced basal resistance and is morphologically indistinguishable from Col-0 [14].

226 To determine if the *tpr2-2* mutation had any effect on transcription of *SNC1* in *srfr1-4 eds1-2*,
227 we crossed *eds1-2* to *tpr2-2* and *srfr1-4 tpr2-2* to *srfr1-4 eds1-2* and obtained *eds1-2 tpr2-2* and *srfr1-4*
228 *eds1-2 tpr2-2* mutants. As seen previously with the *srfr1-4 eds1-2* double mutant, the *srfr1-4 eds1-2*
229 *tpr2-2* triple mutant was not morphologically different from Col-0 (Fig 8A). When we quantified the
230 amount of *SNC1* transcript in these plants we found that *srfr1-4 eds1-2* produced significantly more
231 *SNC1* than Col-0, *eds1-2*, and *eds1-2 tpr2-2* (Fig 8B). The *srfr1-4 eds1-2 tpr2-2* triple mutant had a
232 repeatable but non-significant increase in *SNC1* relative to *srfr1-4 eds1-2* (Fig 8B). These data suggest
233 that *SRFR1* also acts upstream of *SNC1* transcription, while *TPR2* acts downstream of *SNC1*
234 transcription.

235 *TPR1* was previously shown to directly interact with the TIR domain of SNC1 [19]. To
236 determine if *TPR2* interacts with SNC1, we performed an *in vitro* pull down assay between GST-tagged
237 *TPR2* and T7-tagged SNC1-TIR domain. Pull down of GST-*TPR2* with GST beads co-precipitated T7-

238 SNC1-TIR, whereas pull down of GST alone failed to co-precipitate T7-SNC1-TIR (Fig 8C), indicative
239 of a direct protein-protein interaction between TPR2 and SNC1. The post-transcriptional activity of
240 TPR2 may therefore consist of competing with TPR1 for binding of SNC1.

241

242 **Discussion**

243

244 To determine whether members of the *TPL* transcriptional repressor gene family functionally interact
245 with *SRFR1* we chose a genetic approach. By creating double and higher order mutants between *srfr1-4*,
246 members of the *TOPLESS* family, and other genes relevant to the *srfr1-4* autoimmune phenotype, we
247 were able to assess the impact these genes had on constitutive immunity. Our results indicate a genetic
248 interaction between *SRFR1* and *TPR2* and its close homolog *TPR3*. Further data show a novel genetic
249 interaction between *SNC1* and *TPR2*. We found that stunting in *srfr1-4* was affected by mutations in
250 *TPL* and *TPR2*, but in opposite ways; *srfr1-4 tpl-8* was less stunted, and *srfr1-4 tpr2-2* was more
251 stunted. To verify that these phenotypes were a consequence of altered immune system regulation, and
252 not a developmental phenotype unrelated to defense, we measured the expression of *PR2* as a marker of
253 the defense response [30,31]. Previous research has shown that *PR1* and *PR2* mRNA levels are elevated
254 in *srfr1-4* relative to wild type plants [12]. Here, we found that *PR2* levels in *srfr1-4 tpl-8* and *srfr1-4*
255 *tpr2-2* are indeed consistent with differentially regulated immune system outputs in these double
256 mutants.

257

258 **Contrasting roles of *TPR1/TPL* and *TPR2/TPR3***

259 Stunting, but not all aspects of heightened basal resistance in *srfr1-4* has been previously shown to be
260 dependent upon the TNL gene *SNC1* [12]. One mechanism by which *SNC1* activates the immune

261 system was demonstrated to be through a protein interaction with TPR1, the end result of this interaction
262 being the repression of negative regulators of defense such as *DND1* and *DND2*. *SNCI* was also shown
263 to interact genetically with *TPL*, which shares 92% identity with TPR1 at the amino acid level [19]. The
264 attenuated autoimmunity we observed in *srfr1-4 tpr1-8* is in agreement with this model. We did not see a
265 similar phenotype in *srfr1-4 tpr1-2*, most likely because the *tpr1-2* allele is not a true knockout. We
266 verified by sequencing out from the T-DNA that the location of the *tpr1-2* insertion is within the first
267 intron of *TPR1*, which is located in the 5' untranslated region. This insertion may not be sufficient to
268 knock out transcription of functional *TPR1* mRNA.

269 In contrast to *srfr1-4 tpr1-8*, the *srfr1-4 tpr2-2* phenotype is a novel case wherein a member of the
270 *TOPLESS* family is implicated in repressing an immune response. Based on the strikingly different
271 phenotypes of the double mutants we propose that TPR2 is repressing a set of genes disparate from that
272 of TPR1 or is activating genes in the *srfr1-4* background. We verified that the exacerbated autoimmune
273 phenotype in *srfr1-4 tpr2-2* was linked to *TPR2* by demonstrating that another allele of *TPR2*, *tpr2-1*,
274 could produce the same phenotype in *srfr1-4*.

275 Previous research has shown varying degrees of redundancy amongst the different members of
276 the *TOPLESS* family depending on the process under study. In embryogenesis and circadian clock
277 regulation, knocking out all *TPL/TPR* genes is required to see a phenotype [21,32], whereas the
278 repression of brassinosteroid-sensitive genes via BZR1 requires specifically TPL, TPR1, and TPR4 [23].
279 Here we show that *TPR3*, the closest homolog of *TPR2*, has some functional redundancy with *TPR2* in
280 repressing autoimmunity in *srfr1-4* in that the *srfr1-4 tpr2-2 tpr3-1* triple mutant is significantly more
281 stunted than *srfr1-4 tpr2-2* and shows increased *PR2* levels relative to *srfr1-4 tpr2-2* and *srfr1-4*.

282

283 **Contributions to *SNCI* regulation by *SRFR1***

284 Although stunting in *srfr1-4* is fully dependent upon *SNC1*, *SRFRI* has a broader effect on immune
285 function independent of *SNC1*. The TNL resistance genes *RPS4*, *RPP4*, and *At4g16950* are all
286 upregulated in *srfr1* mutants independent of *SNC1*, as well as several other genes related to immune
287 function such as *EDS1*, *PAD4*, *SID2*, *PRI*, and *PR2* [11,12]. *SNC1* is located within the *RPP5* disease
288 resistance locus, a complex locus containing several paralogous resistance genes [33]. It has been
289 previously shown that activation of *SNC1* leads to increased transcription of other resistance genes at
290 this locus, such as *RPP4* and *At4g16950* [12,24,34]. The mechanism by which *RPP4* and *At4g16950* are
291 upregulated by activated *SNC1* is unknown, although two possibilities were proposed in Yi and
292 Richards. The first involves upregulation as a result of increased SA caused by *SNC1* activation, citing
293 previous work showing that application of SA is sufficient to cause a large increase in *SNC1* transcript
294 [26]. However, they also do not rule out the possibility that chromatin structure at the locus might be
295 altered due to increased transcription of *SNC1*, creating a permissive environment for transcription of
296 neighboring paralogs [24].

297 Interestingly, *RPP4* and *At4g16950* are both upregulated in *srfr1-4 snc1-11* [12], a genetic
298 background without a functional copy of *SNC1*, and as a consequence of this observation we
299 hypothesized that the *PR2* increase we observed in *srfr1-4 snc1-11 tpr2-2 tpr3-1* could be due to a
300 further increase in transcript of these other *RPP5* locus resistance genes. Surprisingly, *RPP4* levels were
301 significantly decreased by adding the *tpr2* and *tpr3* mutations to *srfr1-4 snc1-11*, implying that the
302 increased *RPP4* in *srfr1-4 tpr2-2* relative to *srfr1-4* is fully dependent upon increased *SNC1*. We
303 therefore asked if *TPR2* had a genetic interaction with *SNC1* by crossing *tpr2-2* with *snc1-1*. The *snc1-1*
304 allele contains a point mutation in the linker region between the NBS and LRR domains that causes
305 constitutive activation of the *SNC1* protein and associated stunting caused by induction of the defense
306 response without increasing the levels of *snc1-1* mRNA [25,35]. In the *snc1-1 tpr2-2* double mutant we

307 saw significantly increased stunting, and *snc1-1* and *PR2* mRNA levels, suggesting a role for *TPR2* in
308 the downregulation of the *SNC1*-mediated constitutive defense response.

309 In order for resistance genes of the TNL class to function, the lipase like protein *EDS1* must be
310 present [36–38]. To elucidate the position of *TPR2* in the *SNC1*-mediated constitutive defense response
311 we took advantage of the *srfr1-4 eds1-2* double mutant which blocks increased basal resistance in *srfr1-*
312 *4* [14] and consequently feedback upregulation of *SNC1*. Other studies have used mutations in *EDS1*,
313 and closely related protein interactor *PAD4* which is also required for *SNC1* signaling, to block feedback
314 upregulation of *SNC1* to determine if genes are acting upstream or downstream of *SNC1* activation
315 [25,26,28,39]. In the *srfr1-4 eds1-2 tpr2-2* triple mutant we did not see a significant increase in *SNC1*
316 mRNA absent of *SNC1* protein activation compared to *srfr1-4 eds1-2*. This result implies that *TPR2* is
317 acting downstream of *SNC1* activation, whereas *SRFR1* also impacts the level of *SNC1* mRNA. This
318 difference may be one component for the additive effect of mutations in *SRFR1* and *TPR2* on the level
319 of constitutively activated defenses.

320

321 **Model for TPR2/TPR3 and SRFR1 functions in SNC1-mediated autoimmunity**

322 Based on these data we present the following model for *TPR2* and *SRFR1* function in autoimmunity
323 caused by *SNC1* activation (Fig 9). In the *srfr1-4* background *SNC1* mRNA is expressed at a high level
324 and *SNC1* is constitutively activated [12]. Disruption of protein-protein interactions between *SRFR1* and
325 *SNC1* [12] could lead to *SNC1* activation; however, increased mRNA levels can also lead to *SNC1* auto-
326 activation [24,40] and based on *SRFR1*'s interaction with TCP transcription factors a direct regulation of
327 *SNC1* transcript levels [15,41] is consistent with the data obtained in the *eds1-2* background. Because in
328 wild type plants levels of *SNC1* are kept low to avoid fitness penalties, the effects of *TPR2* mutations are
329 only apparent when *SNC1* transcription is induced, such as in the autoimmune mutants *srfr1-4* and *snc1-*

330 I. We hypothesize that TPR2, and to some degree TPR3, acts downstream of *SNC1* transcription by
331 repressing expression of a positive regulator of *SNC1* or activating a negative regulator. The physical
332 interaction of TPR2 with the TIR domain of *SNC1* shown here raises the possibility that TPR2 competes
333 with TPR1 for binding of *SNC1*, and that TPR1-*SNC1* and TPR2-*SNC1* complexes regulate target genes
334 such as *DND1* and *DND2* in opposite ways. In addition, enhancement of the *snc1-1* phenotype by *tpr2-2*
335 illustrates that the enhanced resistance phenotype is not dependent upon mutations in *SRFR1*. Together,
336 this suggests that TPR2 and *SRFR1* are involved in separate pathways converging on regulation of *SNC1*.
337

338 **Materials and Methods**

339

340 **Plant lines**

341 Plant lines used for genetic analysis were *tpl-8* (SALK_036566), *tpr1-2* (SALK_065650C), *tpr2-1*
342 (SALK_112730), *tpr2-2* (SALK_079848C), *tpr3-1* (SALK_029936), *tpr4-1* (SALK_150008), *snc1-11*
343 (SALK_047058) from the Salk T-DNA knockout collection [42]. The *srfr1-4* line (SAIL_412-E08) was
344 from the Syngenta Arabidopsis Insertion Library [43]. Salk and SAIL lines were acquired from the
345 Arabidopsis Biological Resource Center. The *eds1-2* line was a gift from Jane Parker, and the *snc1-1* line
346 was a gift from Harrold van den Burg. All mutants are in the Col-0 background, and genotyping primers
347 used for these lines are detailed in Table S1. After parental lines were crossed, plants were genotyped in
348 the F1 generation to verify the success of the cross, and then in the F2 generation to identify plants
349 homozygous for the desired mutations.

350

351 **Molecular cloning and generation of transgenic lines**

352 The TPR2-myc construct was created by amplifying the *TPR2* CDS with flanking SpeI and PacI sites at
353 the 5' and 3' ends, respectively. The binary vector pGWB20 [44] was cut with XbaI and PacI to excise
354 the Gateway cassette, and the SpeI-*TPR2*-PacI fragment was ligated into the XbaI and PacI sites in frame
355 with the C-terminal myc tags in pGWB20. Sequencing was used to verify the clone. *Agrobacterium*
356 *tumefaciens* strain C58-C1 was transformed with the TPR2-myc construct by electroporation. The *srfr1-*
357 *4 tpr2-2* double mutant was grown at high temperatures to relieve stunting, and these plants were
358 transformed by floral dip. Transgenic seed was selected on hygromycin B, and T3 homozygotes were
359 selected by true breeding on selection plates. TPR2-myc protein expression was verified by western blot
360 using c-Myc antibody sc-789 (Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Dallas, TX, USA).

361 The GST-TPR2 construct was created by amplifying the *TPR2* CDS with flanking EcoRI and NotI
362 sites with an additional base between the EcoRI site and the start codon. The EcoRI-*TPR2*-NotI fragment
363 was cloned into pGEX-4T-3 (SigmaAldrich, St. Louis, MO, USA) digested with EcoRI and NotI.
364 Similarly, a cDNA encoding the SNC1 TIR domain (amino acids 1-182) was amplified with flanking
365 EcoRI and XhoI sites. The EcoRI-*TIR*-XhoI fragment was cloned into pET28a (EMD Millipore, Billerica,
366 MA USA) digested with EcoRI and XhoI to create *His-T7-SNC1 TIR*.

367

368 **RNA extraction, cDNA preparation and qPCR**

369 For qPCR experiments multiple plants from each genotype were ground together in liquid nitrogen to
370 form one replicate. For each experiment two or three replicates were used per genotype. After grinding
371 plant tissue in liquid nitrogen, total RNA was extracted using TRIZOL reagent (Thermo Fisher Scientific,
372 Carlsbad, CA, USA). First strand cDNA synthesis was carried out using 2 ug of total RNA and reverse
373 transcription was performed using an oligo (dT) 15 primer and Moloney murine leukemia virus (MMLV)
374 reverse transcriptase (Promega, Madison, WI, USA). qPCR was carried out using SYBR GREEN PCR

375 Master Mix (Thermo Fisher Scientific) or Brilliant III Ultra-Fast SYBR Green qPCR Master Mix (Agilent,
376 Santa Clara, CA, USA) on either an ABI 7500 or Agilent AriaMX qPCR system. Transcript levels were
377 normalized using *SAND* gene (At2g28390) for qPCR experiments. LinRegPCR was used to determine
378 PCR efficiency and cycle thresholds for each sample [45], and the $2^{-\Delta\Delta C_T}$ method was used to determine
379 expression levels [46]. Primers used for qPCR are detailed in Table S2.

380

381 **Protein pull-down assays**

382 GST-TPR2, empty pGEX-4T-3, and T7-SNC1-TIR in *E. coli* strain BL21(DE3) were streaked to single
383 colonies and then incubated overnight at 37°C in LB broth. 200 ml of LB was inoculated with 2 ml of
384 overnight culture and incubated for approximately 3 hours to an optical density of 0.6-0.8. IPTG at 500
385 μ M was added to each culture and flasks were grown overnight at 22°C. Each culture was passed through
386 a French press to lyse the cells. Extracts were centrifuged and 25 μ l of GST beads (G-Biosciences, St.
387 Louis, MO USA) were added to 6 μ l supernatant of GST-TPR2 and empty pGEX-4T-3. Samples were
388 incubated at 4°C for 1.5 hours with rotation. After washing 3 times with PBS, 6 μ l soluble protein T7-
389 SNC1-TIR was added, and samples were incubated at 4°C for 1 hour. After washing 3 times with PBS
390 protein was eluted from beads in Laemmli buffer and then used for protein blot with anti-GST and anti-
391 T7 (EMD Millipore). For PR2 detection in S1 Fig, PR2 antibody AS207 208 (Agriseria, Vannas, Sweden)
392 was used.

393

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- 535
- 536

537 **Figure Legends**

538

539 **Fig 1. Loss of function of *TPR2* increases stunting in *srfr1*.**

540 (A) Morphological phenotype of *srfr1-4* and *srfr1-4 tpl/tpr* double mutants at four weeks post
541 sowing. (B) Shoot weight from plants grown under short day conditions at 21°C for four weeks.
542 Dots represent individual data points taken over two separate experiments. Whiskers on boxplots
543 are drawn to the farthest data point within 1.5 * IQR of first and third quartiles. Letters denote
544 significant differences as determined by Student's t-test ($P < 0.01$) using the Bonferroni-Holm
545 method to correct for multiple comparisons.

546

547 **Fig 2. Multiple alleles of *TPR2* increase stunting in *srfr1*.**

548 (A) Morphological phenotypes of *tpr2-1*, *tpr2-2*, *srfr1-4*, *srfr1-4 tpr2-1*, and *srfr1-4 tpr2-2* at
549 four weeks post sowing. (B) Shoot weight from plants grown under short day conditions at 21°C
550 for four weeks. Dots represent individual data points. Whiskers on boxplots are drawn to the
551 farthest data point within 1.5 * IQR of first and third quartiles. Letters denote significant
552 differences as determined by Student's t-test ($P < 0.05$) using the Bonferroni-Holm method to
553 correct for multiple comparisons.

554

555 **Fig 3. Simultaneous loss of *TPR2* and *TPR3* increases stunting and expression of *PR2* and**

556 ***SNCI* in *srfr1*.**

557 (A) Morphological phenotype of *srfr1-4*, *srfr1-4 tpr2-2*, and *srfr1-4 tpr2-2 tpr3-1* at 20 days after
558 sowing. Plants were grown under short day conditions at 21°C. (B) Shoot weight from plants
559 grown under short day conditions at 21°C for four weeks. Dots represent individual data points

560 taken over two separate experiments. Whiskers on boxplots are drawn to the farthest data point
561 within 1.5 * IQR of first and third quartiles. Letters denote significant differences as determined
562 by Student's t-test ($P < 0.001$) using the Bonferroni-Holm method to correct for multiple
563 comparisons. (C&D) Expression as measured by quantitative RT-PCR of *PR2* and *SNCI* in
564 single, double, and triple mutants. Dots represent individual data points taken over two separate
565 experiments. Genes of interest were normalized against *SAND* (At2g28390). Whiskers on
566 boxplots are drawn to the farthest data point within 1.5 * IQR of first and third quartiles. Letters
567 denote significant differences as determined by Student's t-test ($P < 0.05$) using the Bonferroni-
568 Holm method to correct for multiple comparisons.

569

570 **Fig 4. *SNCI* expression is increased in *tpr2 tpr3***

571 (A) Morphological phenotype of *tpr2-2 tpr3-1*. Plants were grown for four weeks under short
572 day conditions at 21°C. (B&C) Expression as measured by quantitative RT-PCR of *PR2* and
573 *SNCI*. Dots represent individual data points taken over two separate experiments. Genes of
574 interest were normalized against *SAND* (At2g28390). Whiskers on boxplots are drawn to the
575 farthest data point within 1.5 * IQR of first and third quartiles. Asterisks denote significant
576 differences as determined by Student's t-test ($P < 0.005$) using the Bonferroni-Holm method to
577 correct for multiple comparisons.

578

579 **Fig 5. Overexpression of TPR2 reduces stunting and *SNCI* expression in *srfr1 tpr2***

580 (A) Morphological phenotype of *TPR2-myc srfr1-4 tpr2-2* compared to *srfr1-4* and *srfr1-4 tpr2-*
581 *2*. Plants were grown under short day conditions at 21°C for four weeks. (B&C) Expression as
582 measured by quantitative RT-PCR of *SNCI* and *RPP4*. Dots represent individual data points

583 taken over two separate experiments. Genes of interest were normalized against *SAND*
584 (At2g28390). Whiskers on boxplots are drawn to the farthest data point within 1.5 * IQR of first
585 and third quartiles. Letters denote significant differences as determined by Student's t-test
586 ($P < 0.05$) using the Bonferroni-Holm method to correct for multiple comparisons.

587

588 **Fig 6. *tpr2 tpr3* mutants have lower expression of *RPP4* in *snc1* knockouts**

589 (A) Morphological phenotype of plants harboring the *snc1-11* mutation crossed into *srfr1* and
590 *tpr2 tpr3* mutants. Plants were grown under short day conditions at 21°C for four weeks. (B&C)
591 Expression as measured by quantitative RT-PCR of *RPP4* and *PR2*. Dots represent individual
592 data points taken over two separate experiments. Genes of interest were normalized against
593 *SAND* (At2g28390). Whiskers on boxplots are drawn to the farthest data point within 1.5 * IQR
594 of first and third quartiles. Letters denote significant differences as determined by Student's t-test
595 ($P < 0.05$) using the Bonferroni-Holm method to correct for multiple comparisons.

596

597 **Fig 7. Mutations in *TPR2* increase stunting and *SNCI* expression in *snc1-1* mutants**

598 (A) Morphological phenotypes of *snc1-1* and *snc1-1 tpr2-2*. Plants were grown under short day
599 conditions at 21°C for four weeks. (B&C) Expression as measured by quantitative RT-PCR of
600 *SNCI* and *PR2*. Dots represent individual data points taken over two separate experiments.
601 Genes of interest were normalized against *SAND* (At2g28390). Whiskers on boxplots are drawn
602 to the farthest data point within 1.5 * IQR of first and third quartiles. Letters denote significant
603 differences as determined by Student's t-test ($P < 0.01$) using the Bonferroni-Holm method to
604 correct for multiple comparisons.

605

606 **Fig 8. SRFR1 acts upstream of SNC1 transcription**

607 (A) Morphological phenotypes of single, double, and triple mutants of *eds1-2*, *srfr1-4*, and *tpr2-*
608 *2*. Plants were grown under short day conditions at 21°C for four weeks. (B) Expression as
609 measured by quantitative RT-PCR of *SNC1*. Dots represent individual data points taken over two
610 separate experiments. Genes of interest were normalized against *SAND* (At2g28390). Whiskers
611 on boxplots are drawn to the farthest data point within 1.5 * IQR of first and third quartiles.
612 Letters denote significant differences as determined by Student's t-test ($P < 0.01$) using the
613 Bonferroni-Holm method to correct for multiple comparisons. (C) *In vitro* interaction of TPR2
614 and the TIR domain of SNC1 in *E. coli*. Proteins were pulled down and subjected to immunoblot
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618 **Fig 9. Model for TPR2/TPR3 and SRFR1 functions in SNC1-mediated autoimmunity**

619 (Left) In Col-0, low levels of *SNC1* help to avoid fitness penalties. This may be accomplished
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622 immunity such as *DND1/DND2* and indirectly subsequent *SNC1* expression. Here, the combined
623 effects of SRFR1 and TPR2 hold *SNC1* expression in check. (Right) In the *srfr1-4 tpr2-2 tpr3-*
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625 an autoimmune response that results in excessive stunting.

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631 *srfr1-4 tpr3-1*, and *srfr1-4 tpr4-1*. The large subunit of rubisco is shown as a loading control.

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633 **S2 Fig. Phylogenetic tree of the *Arabidopsis thaliana* TOPLESS family**

634 Phylogram showing evolutionary relationships amongst *TOPLESS* family members. The WD40
635 protein *LEUNIG (LUG)* is included as the outgroup. Tree was generated from full length cDNA
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638 **S1 Table. PCR primers used for genotyping mutant lines**

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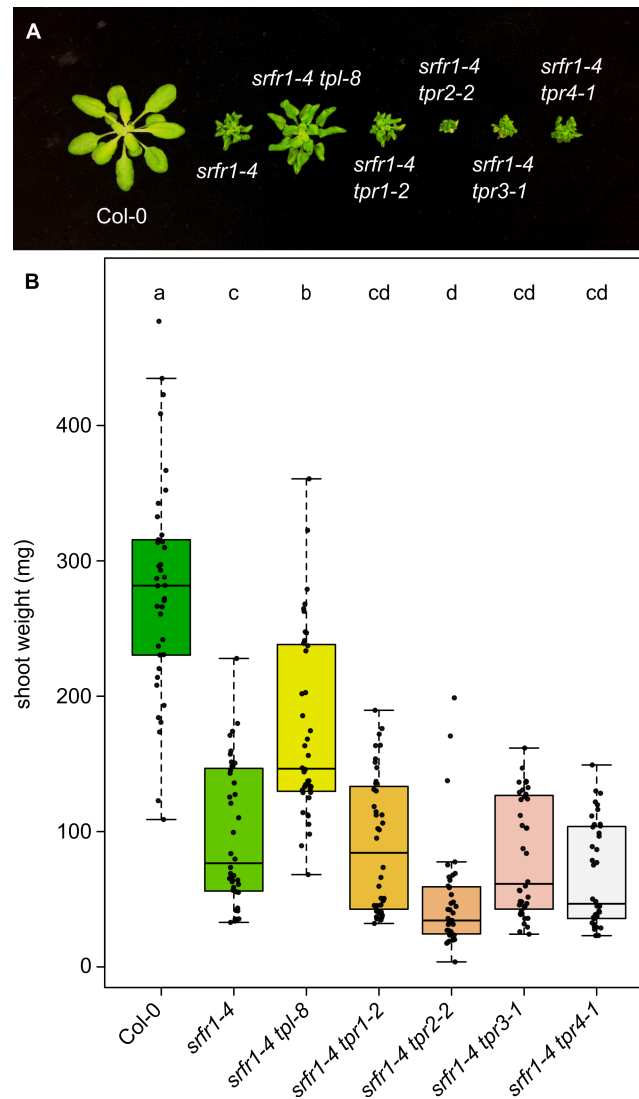


Fig 1. Loss of function of *TPR2* increases stunting in *srfr1*.

(A) Morphological phenotype of *srfr1-4* and *srfr1-4 tpr/tpr* double mutants at four weeks post sowing. (B) Shoot weight from plants grown under short day conditions at 21°C for four weeks. Dots represent individual data points taken over two separate experiments. Whiskers on boxplots are drawn to the farthest data point within 1.5 * IQR of first and third quartiles. Letters denote significant differences as determined by Student's t-test ($P < 0.01$) using the Bonferroni-Holm method to correct for multiple comparisons.

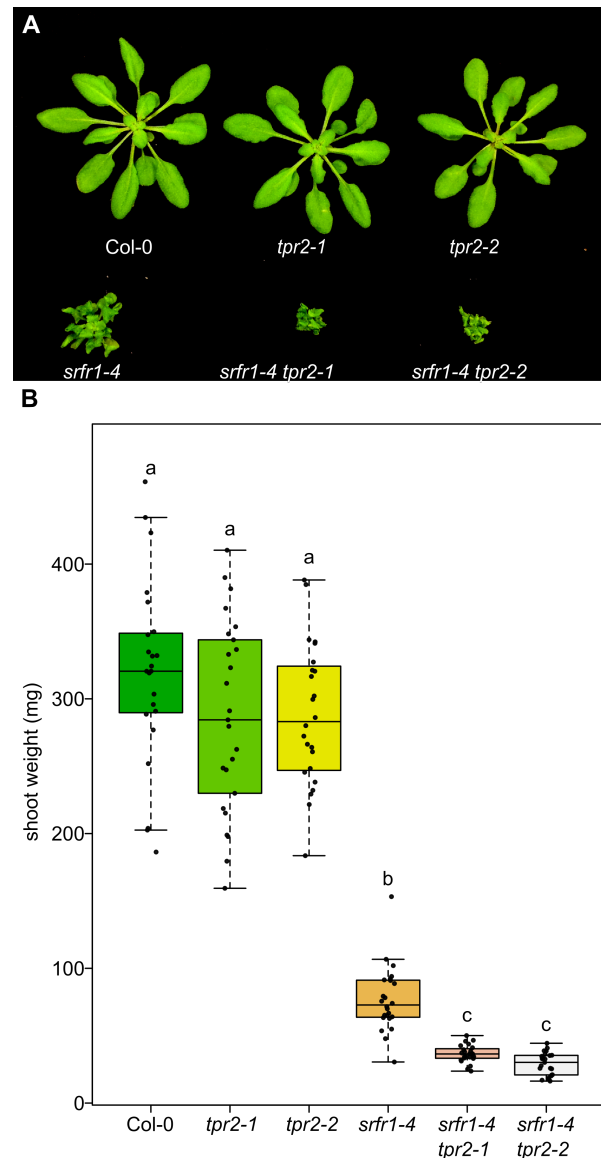


Fig 2. Multiple alleles of *TPR2* increase stunting in *srf1*.

(A) Morphological phenotypes of *tpr2-1*, *tpr2-2*, *srf1-4*, *srf1-4 tpr2-1*, and *srf1-4 tpr2-2* at four weeks post sowing. (B) Shoot weight from plants grown under short day conditions at 21°C for four weeks. Dots represent individual data points. Whiskers on boxplots are drawn to the farthest data point within 1.5 * IQR of first and third quartiles. Letters denote significant differences as determined by Student's t-test ($P < 0.05$) using the Bonferroni-Holm method to correct for multiple comparisons.

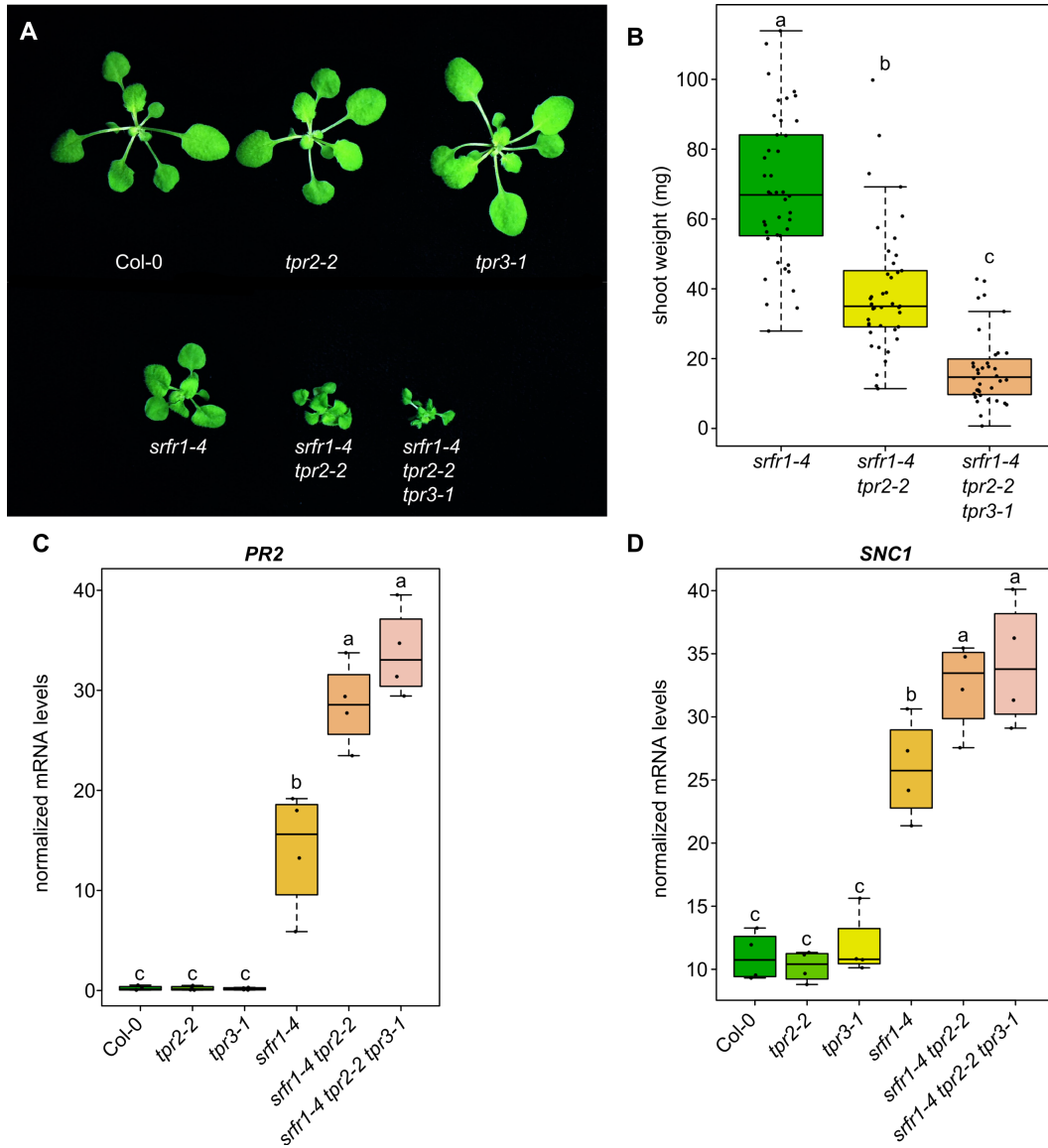


Fig 3. Simultaneous loss of *TPR2* and *TPR3* increases stunting and expression of *PR2* and *SNC1* in *srfr1*.

(A) Morphological phenotype of *srfr1-4*, *srfr1-4 tpr2-2*, and *srfr1-4 tpr2-2 tpr3-1* at 20 days after sowing. Plants were grown under short day conditions at 21°C. (B) Shoot weight from plants grown under short day conditions at 21°C for four weeks. Dots represent individual data points taken over two separate experiments. Whiskers on boxplots are drawn to the farthest data point within 1.5 * IQR of first and third quartiles. Letters denote significant differences as determined by Student's t-test ($P < 0.001$) using the Bonferroni-Holm method to correct for multiple comparisons. (C&D) Expression as measured by quantitative RT-PCR of *PR2* and *SNC1* in single, double, and triple mutants. Dots represent individual data points taken over two separate experiments. Genes of interest were normalized against *SAND* (At2g28390). Whiskers on boxplots are drawn to the farthest data point within 1.5 * IQR of first and third quartiles. Letters denote significant differences as determined by Student's t-test ($P < 0.05$) using the Bonferroni-Holm method to correct for multiple comparisons.

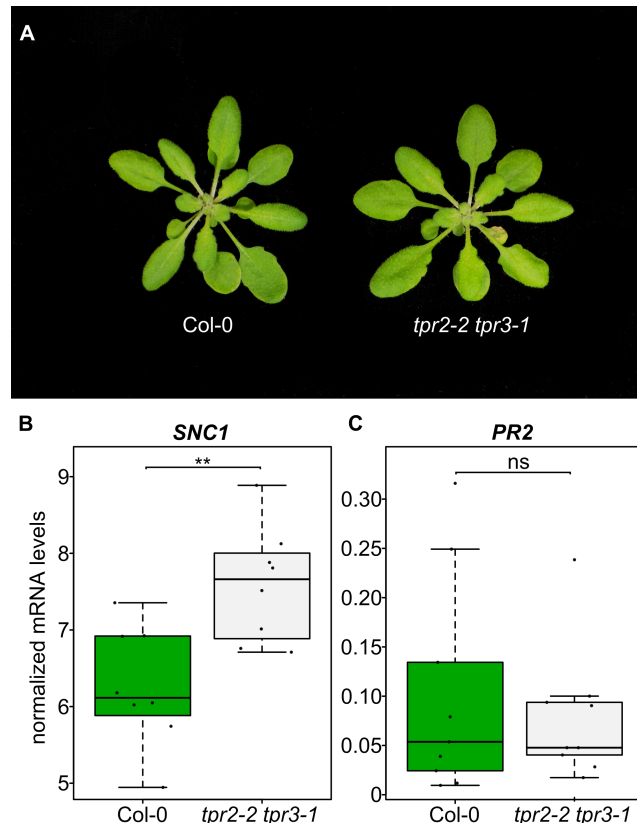


Fig 4. *SNC1* expression is increased in *tpr2 tpr3*

(A) Morphological phenotype of *tpr2-2 tpr3-1*. Plants were grown for four weeks under short day conditions at 21°C. (B&C) Expression as measured by quantitative RT-PCR of *PR2* and *SNC1*. Dots represent individual data points taken over two separate experiments. Genes of interest were normalized against *SAND* (At2g28390). Whiskers on boxplots are drawn to the farthest data point within 1.5 * IQR of first and third quartiles. Asterisks denote significant differences as determined by Student's t-test ($P < 0.005$) using the Bonferroni-Holm method to correct for multiple comparisons.

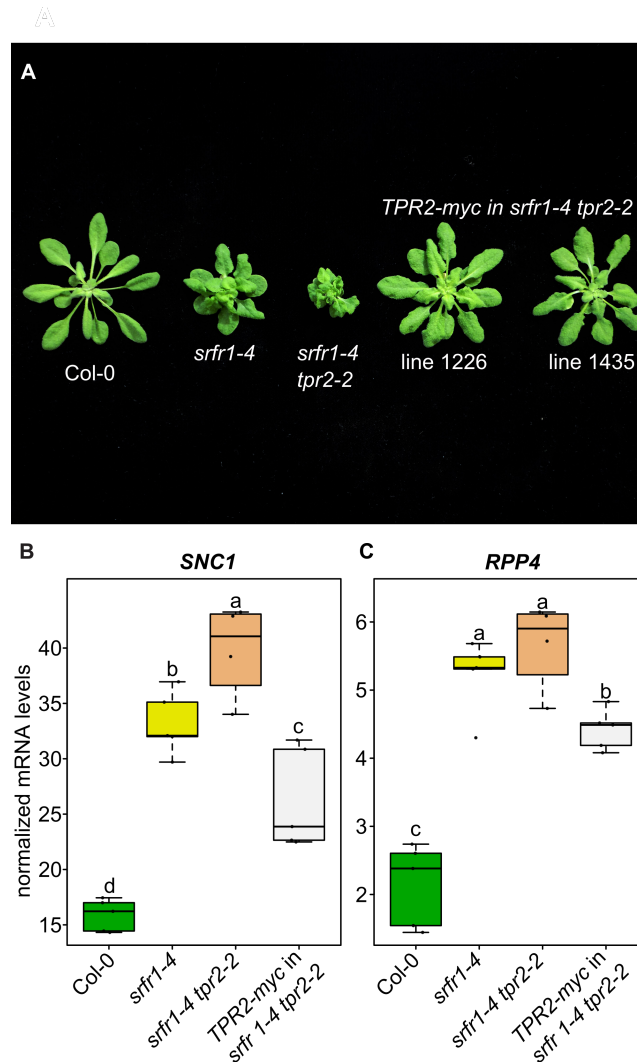


Fig 5. Overexpression of TPR2 reduces stunting and *SNC1* expression in *sfr1 tpr2*

(A) Morphological phenotype of *TPR2-myc sfr1-4 tpr2-2* compared to *sfr1-4* and *sfr1-4 tpr2-2*. Plants were grown under short day conditions at 21°C for four weeks. (B&C) Expression as measured by quantitative RT-PCR of *SNC1* and *RPP4*. Dots represent individual data points taken over two separate experiments. Genes of interest were normalized against *SAND* (At2g28390). Whiskers on boxplots are drawn to the farthest data point within 1.5 * IQR of first and third quartiles. Letters denote significant differences as determined by Student's t-test ($P < 0.05$) using the Bonferroni-Holm method to correct for multiple comparisons.

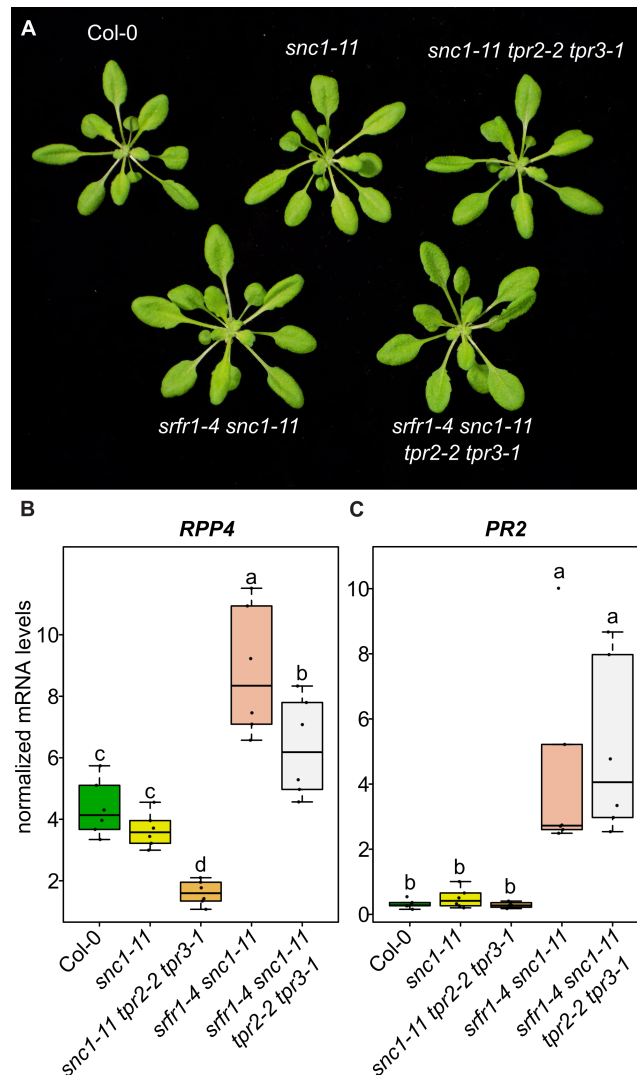


Fig 6. *tpr2 tpr3* mutants have lower expression of *RPP4* in *snc1* knockouts

(A) Morphological phenotype of plants harboring the *snc1-11* mutation crossed into *sfr1* and *tpr2 tpr3* mutants. Plants were grown under short day conditions at 21°C for four weeks. (B&C) Expression as measured by quantitative RT-PCR of *RPP4* and *PR2*. Dots represent individual data points taken over two separate experiments. Genes of interest were normalized against *SAND* (At2g28390). Whiskers on boxplots are drawn to the farthest data point within 1.5 * IQR of first and third quartiles. Letters denote significant differences as determined by Student's t-test ($P < 0.05$) using the Bonferroni-Holm method to correct for multiple comparisons.

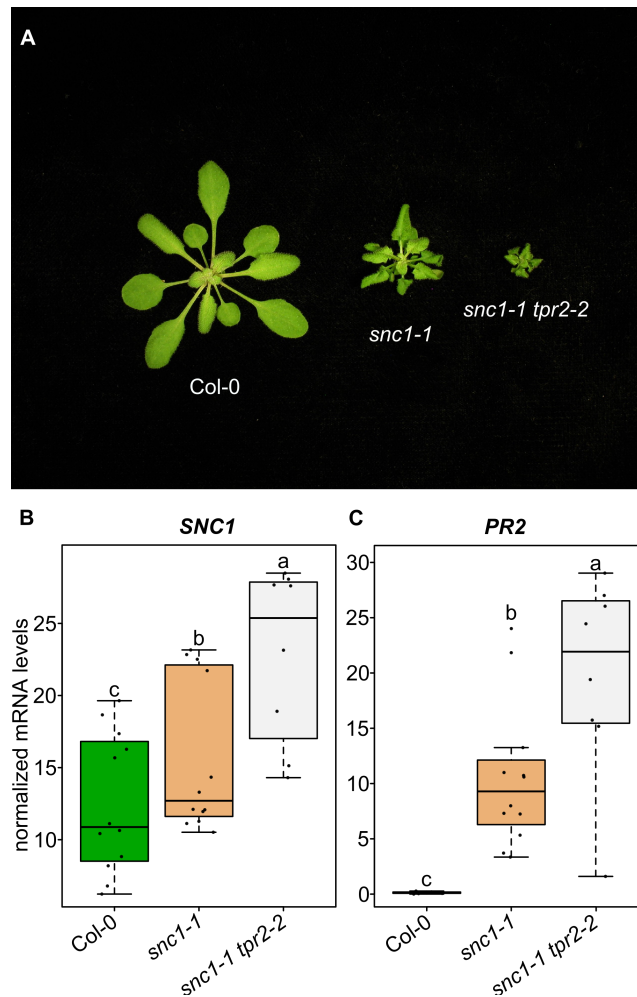


Fig 7. Mutations in *TPR2* increase stunting and *SNC1* expression in *snc1-1* mutants

(A) Morphological phenotypes of *snc1-1* and *snc1-1 tpr2-2*. Plants were grown under short day conditions at 21°C for four weeks. (B&C) Expression as measured by quantitative RT-PCR of *SNC1* and *PR2*. Dots represent individual data points taken over two separate experiments. Genes of interest were normalized against *SAND* (At2g28390). Whiskers on boxplots are drawn to the farthest data point within 1.5 * IQR of first and third quartiles. Letters denote significant differences as determined by Student's t-test ($P < 0.01$) using the Bonferroni-Holm method to correct for multiple comparisons.

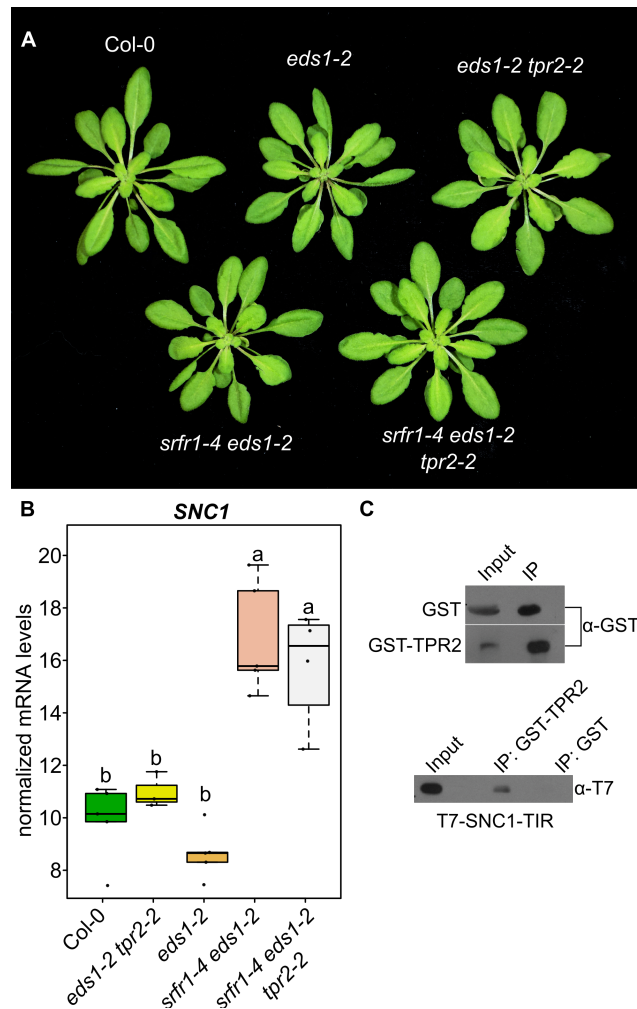


Fig 8. SFRF1 acts upstream of SNC1 transcription

(A) Morphological phenotypes of single, double, and triple mutants of *eds1-2*, *sfr1-4*, and *tpr2-2*. Plants were grown under short day conditions at 21°C for four weeks. (B) Expression as measured by quantitative RT-PCR of *SNC1*. Dots represent individual data points taken over two separate experiments. Genes of interest were normalized against *SAND* (At2g28390). Whiskers on boxplots are drawn to the farthest data point within 1.5 * IQR of first and third quartiles. Letters denote significant differences as determined by Student's t-test ($P < 0.01$) using the Bonferroni-Holm method to correct for multiple comparisons. (C) *In vitro* interaction of TPR2 and the TIR domain of SNC1 in *E. coli*. Proteins were pulled down and subjected to immunoblot analysis with either GST or T7 antibodies. This experiment was repeated once with similar results.

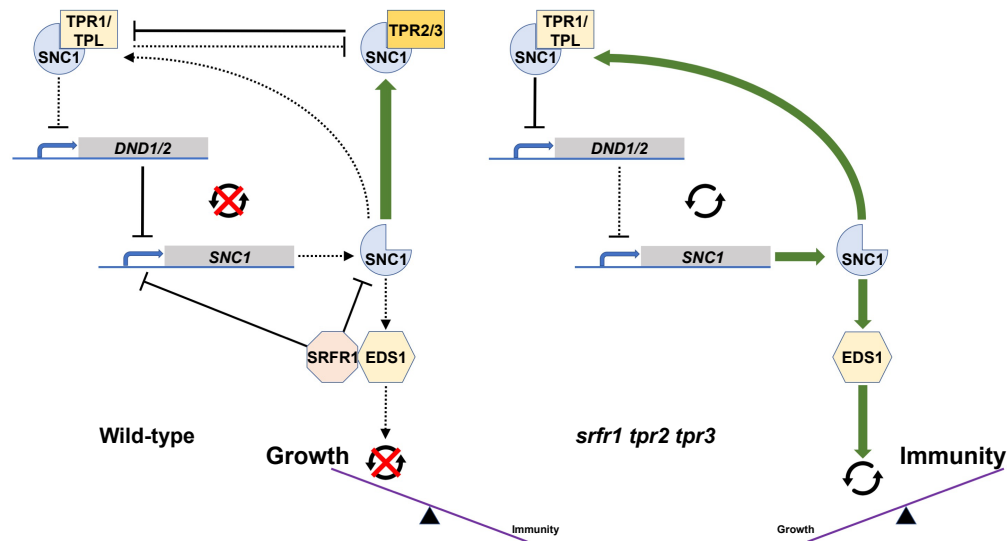
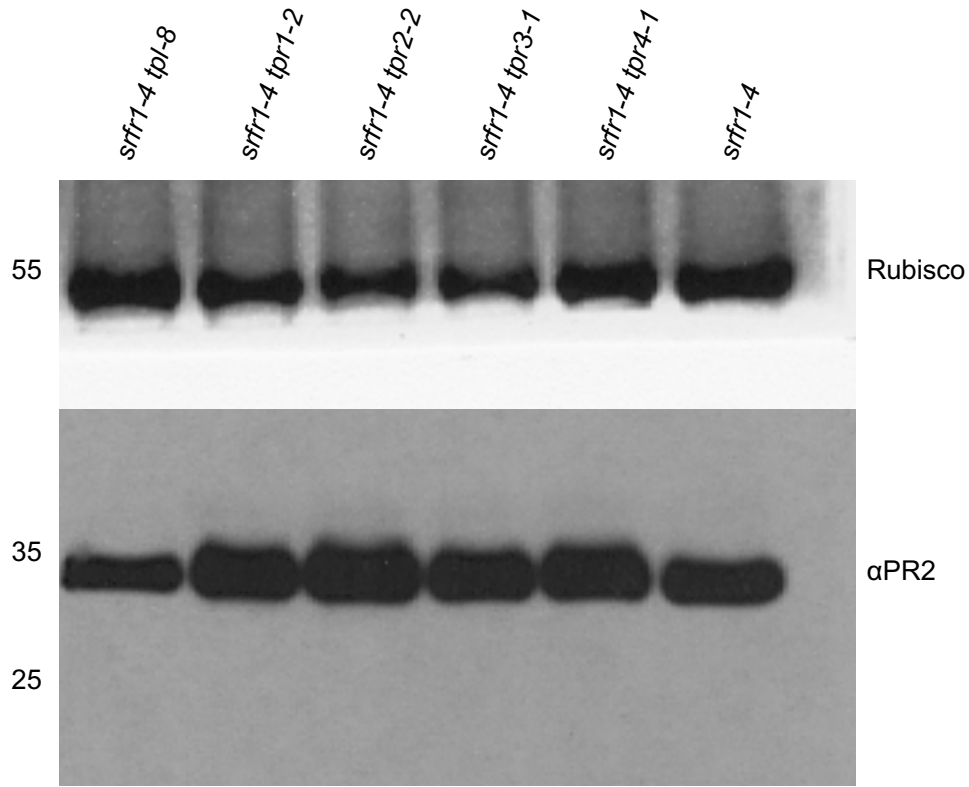


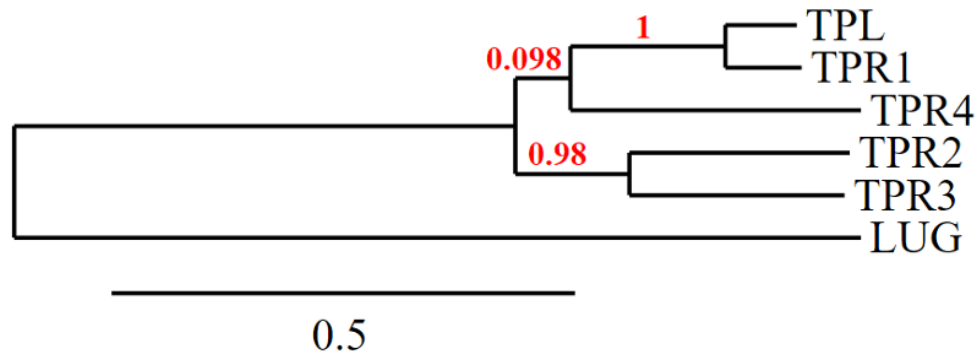
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(Left) In Col-0, low levels of *SNC1* help to avoid fitness penalties. This may be accomplished both through direct inhibition by *SRFR1* and through competitive inhibition by *TPR2* (additively with *TPR3*) of the demonstrated *TPR1*-*SNC1* interaction that affects negative regulators of immunity such as *DND1/DND2* and indirectly subsequent *SNC1* expression. Here, the combined effects of *SRFR1* and *TPR2* hold *SNC1* expression in check. (Right) In the *sfrf1-4 tpr2-2 tpr3-1* triple mutant, these molecular check points are released, allowing *SNC1* expression to trigger an autoimmune response that results in excessive stunting.



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Western blot of total protein extracted from *srfr1-4*, *srfr1-4 tpl-8*, *srfr1-4 tpr1-2*, *srfr1-4 tpr2-2*, *srfr1-4 tpr3-1*, and *srfr1-4 tpr4-1*. The large subunit of rubisco is shown as a loading control.



S2 Fig. Phylogenetic tree of the *Arabidopsis thaliana* TOPLESS family

Phylogram showing evolutionary relationships amongst *TOPLESS* family members. The WD40 protein *LEUNIG* (*LUG*) is included as the outgroup. Tree was generated from full length cDNA sequences using www.phylogeny.fr.

S1 Table. PCR primers used for genotyping mutant lines

Name	sequence	Use
LBa1	TGGTTCACGTAGTGGGCCATCG	SALK line border primer
TPL8 LP	TTGGTTCTCGCGAAAGATTAG	tpl-8
TPL8 RP	AGGAGAGAGCCTTCCTTGTTG	tpl-8
TPR1-2 LP	AAGGCCTCGAGATACTTCTGC	tpr1-2
TPR1-2 RP	ACTCCGTTATCCGTCACCTTC	tpr1-2
TPR2-2 LP	TCAGCATCAAAGACTGCAATG	tpr2-2
TPR2-2 RP	TGGGAAGGTGATTCGTTGTAC	tpr2-2
TPR2-1 LP	TCCTTGTTGAATCTCAATCGG	tpr2-1
TPR2-1 RP	ACGTCAACACCTCGAGGTATG	tpr2-1
TPR3-1LP	GTTCTCTTGCAGCCTCAATTG	tpr3-1
TPR3-1RP	TTCCACAATGTGATTTCTCC	tpr3-1
TPR4-1 GTF	ATGTCGTCACTCAGCAGAGAACTC	tpr4-1
TPR4-1 GTR	GCAAAGCTGATGTTGCCAGTTCAA	tpr4-1
SNC1-11 LP	TCGGCATAACATCGTAAGAGC	snc1-11
SNC1-11 RP	CAAGCTTTCGTGGAGAAGATG	snc1-11
SNC1 FOR GT	GGCATGCGTAATCTGCAATATCTAG	snc1-1
SNC1 LESLEY REV	GAGGTAICTCGAGAGATTCCAAGTTG	snc1-1
SNC1-1 GT FOR	GGCATGCGTAATCTGCAATATCTAa	snc1-1
37460-18	TCTCCACTGTACTAATTTCCCT	srfr1-4
37460-R	ACTAATTCGCAACGTGCCT	srfr1-4
EDS1 F2	CCCTTTCTAGTTTCCTTGAGCTAAG	eds1-2
EDS1 R3	TCAGGTATCTGTTATTTTCATCCATC	eds1-2

S2 Table. Primers used for qPCR

Primer name	sequence
SAND CDNA FOR 1	CACTTGCAGACAAGGCGATG
SAND CDNA REV 1	CCTTTGGCACACCTGATTGC
TPR2 CDNA FOR4	ATTATTGCAATCGGGATGGA
TPR2 CDNA RP5	CTTGGGGCACCCACTTATGA
QRT SNC1 FOR1	GCGGTGTACGACTCATGTATGTC
QRT SNC1 REV1	GATGTCATCCGCATCCGCTT
PR2 QRT FOR1	TTCAACCACACAGCTGGACA
PR2 QRT REV1	GGCAAGGTATCGCCTAGCAT
RPP4 QRT FOR1	GGAAGGCATCCAGTCGCTT
RPP4 QRT REV1	CACCAAACCTTTTGCACCCGT